

**CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

STATEMENT

BY

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

At the outset let me join others in congratulating you, Co-Presidents, on your election to the Presidency of this important meeting. We trust in your leadership to bring this sixth Article XIV Conference to a success. I would also like to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for convening this conference.

This year's Conference takes place against the background of a reinvigorated debate on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. There are many indicators of this new political momentum, such as the Summit-level meeting of the Security Council earlier today. The Council had before it a resolution calling on all States to refrain from conducting nuclear test explosions and to join the CTBT. For the first time in years, the Conference on Disarmament has reached an agreement on an agenda. And most importantly, the preparations for the NPT Review Conference are taking place in a positive and constructive spirit. We hope for a successful conclusion of the 2010 Review Conference, for a strengthening of the treaty on the basis of the equal implementation of all three pillars, and for a decisive step forward towards a world without nuclear weapons.

The high-level participation in today's meeting is an expression of the positive momentum in the area of nuclear non-proliferation. It also underlines the importance given to the CTBT as a cornerstone of the international regime on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and as the foundation for the pursuit of

nuclear disarmament. We firmly believe that the total ban on nuclear weapon tests will constrain the development and improvement of new nuclear weapons thereby significantly contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security.

As of today, 181 States have signed and 149 States have ratified the CTBT. The participation in this treaty regime has thus made big steps since its adoption in 1996. On the path to universality, the CTBT has also developed a moratorium on nuclear testing observed by several Annex-2 States. We call on all States that have not done so to sign and ratify the treaty. We urge in particular the remaining nine Annex-2 States whose ratification is necessary for the Convention's entry into force to actively pursue this important step. We welcome the renewed commitment expressed by China to the ratification of the CTBT. We commend the President of the United States for pursuing its ratification, as well as the pledge to work with others to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. Liechtenstein, as a small country without armed forces, wholeheartedly subscribes to this ultimate goal.

I thank you.